

HOUSE BILL 1911
By Jones U

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 13, relative to charter schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-104, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Parent" means the parent or person who has custody of the child.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-111(f), is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the subsection:

The names of the members of the governing body of the public charter school shall be provided at the beginning of each school year to parents of children enrolling in the school and to the parent of any child enrolling after the beginning of the school year at the time of enrollment.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-111(h), is amended by adding the following sentences at the end of the subsection:

The governing body of a public charter school shall meet at least six (6) times during each school year. At least one (1) of these meetings shall be specifically conducted as a meeting of the governing body with the parents of children attending the school.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-13-128.

(a) The governing body of a public charter school, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, shall develop and adopt a policy to

promote the involvement of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the public charter school, including:

(1) A plan for parent participation in the public charter school that is designed to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, attendance and discipline;

(2) Procedures by which parents may learn about the course of study for their children and review learning materials; and

(3) Procedures by which parents who object to any learning material or activity on the basis that it is harmful may withdraw their children from the activity or from the class or program in which the material is used. Objection to a learning material or activity on the basis that it is harmful includes objection to a material or activity because it questions beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion.

(b) The policy adopted by the governing body pursuant to this section may also include the following components:

(1) A plan by which parents will be made aware of the public charter school's parental involvement policy and the provisions of this section, including:

(A) Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 relating to access to children's official records; and

(B) The parent's right to inspect the public charter school's policies and curriculum.

(2) Efforts to encourage the development of parenting skills;

(3) The communication to parents of techniques designed to assist the child's learning experience in the home;

(4) Efforts to encourage access to community and support services for children and families;

(5) The promotion of communication between the public charter school and parents concerning school programs and the academic progress of the parents' children;

(6) Identification of opportunities for parents to participate in and support classroom instruction in the school;

(7) Efforts to, with appropriate training, support parents as shared decision makers and to encourage membership on school councils or committees;

(8) The recognition of the diversity of parents and the development of guidelines that promote widespread parental participation and involvement in the public charter school at various levels;

(9) The development of preparation programs and specialized courses for licensed employees and administrators that promote parental involvement; and

(10) The development of strategies and programmatic structures at the public charter school to encourage and enable parents to participate actively in their children's education.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 49-1-129. Each public charter school shall have at least one (1) day during the school year to be known as the "Report Card Pick Up Day for Parents". The

report card of each child enrolled in the public charter school shall be picked up by a parent at the public charter school on such day. The school shall remain open until 7:30 p.m. on such day to facilitate report card pick up by parents.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it